

Appl. No. 10/784,462

Response dated September 21, 2005

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

On pages 2 to 3 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner entered an election of species requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and required applicants to elect one of the suggested species as follows:

Group I FIGS. 1, 2, 6, 7;

Group II FIG. 3;

Group III FIG. 8;

Group IV FIG. 27; and

Group V FIG. 28.

Applicants are having difficulty understanding the Examiner's separation of Groups I to V. It is respectfully believed that the structures shown in FIGS. 1 and 8 are the same (the latter is a fragmented portion of the former). Specifically, the longitudinal support member 40 is present in FIG. 1 and has ends 42, 44 internal to the last two stents on each end of the stent graft 1. This configuration of the support member 40 allows the gimbel that is illustrated in FIG. 8. Accordingly, it is not understood how the Examiner has separated the structure of FIG. 1 from the structure of FIG. 8. For the purposes of this

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response, therefore, applicants treat Group I as including the features of FIGS. 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8 and disregard Group III.

If the Examiner disagrees with the above, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below to discuss this matter.

In deference to the election requirement, applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the species of Group I - FIGS. 1, 2, and 6 to 8. The following claims read on the species of Group I:

1 to 29, 40 to 60, 65 to 67, 70 to 72, 75 to 77, 80 to 82, 85 to 87, 90 to 92, 95 to 97, 100 to 102, and 105 to 107.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications including the claims of the species in Groups II, IV, and V.

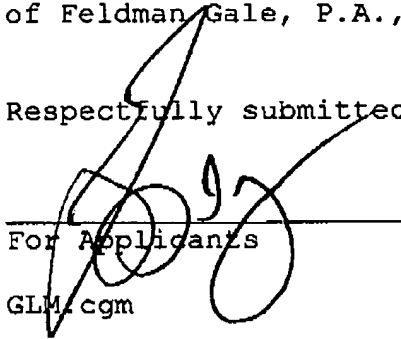
If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Deposit Account
of Feldman Gale, P.A., No. 502524.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

GLM:cgm

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September 21, 2005

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